

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAKERS- FIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Bakersfield Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 175th anniversary; and

Whereas, the congregation of Bakersfield Presbyterian continue to be active, enthusiastic members of our community; and

Whereas, Bakersfield Presbyterian received a congratulatory plaque from the Presbyterian Church General Assembly for their 175 years; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Bakersfield Presbyterian Church and its congregation for their unwavering commitment, dedication and contributions to their community and country in recognition of their 175 years.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANTS STE- PHEN AND JEFFERY BROWN, SCOTTSDALE HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO MILITARY" HON- OREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sergeants Stephen and Jeffery Brown, Scottsdale Healthcare's "Salute to Military" Honorees for July 2008. Scottsdale Healthcare has recognized Sergeants Stephen and Jeffery Brown and other physicians with a connection to the Armed Services for their diligent service to this country.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such deserving servicemembers. Sergeants Stephen and Jeffery Brown are brothers and the third generation of men in their family to proudly serve in the military.

Sergeant Stephen Brown is currently on active duty and assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Steward, Georgia. He returned home in mid-July from a second tour of duty in Iraq, to which he deployed in April 2007. Sergeant Stephen Brown is a Satellite Communications Technician and Computer Network Operator. Some of his awards include two Army Commendation Medals.

Sergeant Jeffery Brown is also currently on active duty. He supports the 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Sergeant Jeffery Brown is currently deployed to Iraq on his first tour of duty. He is expected to return in January 2009. He is a Licensed Practical Nurse and Medic now serving in a Combat Support Hospital in Iraq. Some of his awards include the Army Achievement and Army Service medals.

The brothers' continued sacrifice extended well into their personal lives—despite working in the same Area of Operations, they saw each other only sporadically. One reunion took place over Thanksgiving, when the men were able to enjoy dinner together until their base fell under a rocket and mortar attack. Thankfully, no one was injured.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Sergeants Stephen and Jeffery Brown's tireless dedication to serving our country and protecting the lives of other servicemen facing combat.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FOR PA- TIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, today, the House voted to override the President's veto of H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act. Although I had previously opposed this legislation, I reluctantly cast my vote in favor of overriding the veto. While I maintain my concerns over the funding cuts to Medicare Advantage plans contained in the bill, H.R. 6331 corrects the scheduled physician payment cuts and we have simply run out of time to negotiate further on this matter.

Ensuring access to health care is critical for all Americans. It is especially important that senior citizens, who are at a particularly vulnerable time, receive high quality, affordable care. Consequently, in 2003, Congress created Medicare Advantage plans which combine the reliable nature of Medicare with the quality and value of a competitively driven market. With nearly 10 million Medicare beneficiaries currently enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans, up nearly 60 percent since 2004, America's seniors are seeing the benefits of these plans, offering greater choice, lower out-of-pocket costs, and expanded service.

Unfortunately, the bill placed before us today actually falls short of a compromise that would have staved off the devastating reimbursement cuts and preserved valuable access to Medicare Advantage plans. Seeing how near Senate Finance Committee leaders were to reaching an optimal compromise, I originally opposed H.R. 6331. However, it is clear now that this bill represents the only vehicle to combat the painful cuts to physician payments and to maintain seniors' access to Medicare providers, and therefore it must be supported.

Madam Speaker, America's physicians have called on Congress to prevent a devastating cut to their Medicare reimbursement payments. This cut could have dangerous implications for America's seniors, risking access to the health coverage on which they rely. While

H.R. 6331 does not represent the full extent of what I feel could have been done to address the health care needs for our senior citizens, it does defeat the most imminent threat. I remain hopeful that Congress will revisit this matter and restore Medicare Advantage to its true potential

COLLABORATION BETWEEN CARIBBEAN AND NEW YORK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts made by the Caribbean Community and Common Market, CARICOM, nations and New York City, to stimulate and promote new economic partnerships.

The new relationships that were formed during this year's CARICOM conference have already begun to show prosperous results. Most notable is an agreement made between the University of the West Indies and Medgar Evers College in New York. The agreement was signed by the Honorable Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dr. Denzil L. Douglas and Dr. Edison Jackson, President of Medgar Evers College.

Dr. Douglas has introduced the possibility of an exchange program between the two regions that would include educational programs in the areas of tourism, transportation, climate change, research and outreach.

This newly formed agreement will not only boost economic development in the Caribbean, but it will bridge the gap between the region and the New York based diaspora. I would like to commend the work of all parties that played a part in the creation of this agreement.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN CARIBBEAN AND NEW YORK

BASSETTERRE, ST. KITTS.—St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Denzil L. Douglas said a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Medgar Evers College in New York would form the basis for moving forward after the Caribbean-New York Conference last week.

Speaking at the signing, Prime Minister Douglas, the Lead Head of Government for Education and Health matters in the CARICOM Quasi Cabinet, said the engagement needed to arrive at some concrete elements of a plan for collaboration.

Among the priorities Dr. Douglas suggested that should arise from the Conference were greater collaboration in research and training through the establishment of CARICOM New York Fellowships and a special Fund dedicated for exchange at the staff and student levels; a concerted effort to push the frontiers of knowledge by placing emphasis on areas of Research and Development,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.